

Agenda Item: 4

Meeting Date: September 8, 2005

LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT

Summary: Recent Science Program Activities.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

Lead Scientist Recruitment Update

Michelle Shouse and Jana Machula from the Science Program have begun coordinating with Stuart Satow of CPS Human Resource Services on the Lead Scientist recruitment. A position advertisement is being drafted reflecting qualification criteria identified by the Authority and Lead Scientist. The draft advertisement will be reviewed by U.S. Geological Survey for specifications on Federal GS-15 qualifications.

Advertisements will be placed in journals, on websites and in newsletters identified by the Science Program. In addition to these advertisements, CPS will develop an informational brochure which will be available on the web. CPS will also provide prospective candidates with background information on the California Bay-Delta Authority, the Science Program and the qualifications and qualities we are seeking in a new Lead Scientist. The brochure will contain links to critical CALFED/Authority documents located on the Authority and Science Program websites.

Candidates will be asked to submit a *Curriculum Vitae* and a letter of interest (highlighting their work as it relates to the position, and what they would do in the position).

Mr. Satow will conduct direct outreach and targeted solicitations to qualified individuals and universities identified in collaboration with the Science Program. We intend to begin reviewing applications in November, and interview in early December or January. CPS will collect all application materials and conduct a preliminary screening of applicants. Following the initial review date, application materials for the candidates that pass the initial screening will be sent to the Selection Committee for review (see Attachment A for Selection Committee members).

The Authority (or a subcommittee of the Authority) will be updated regularly by Science Program staff.

The Selection Committee will pare down the applicant pool to three to five finalists. The Authority will be briefed on final applicants. CPS will complete candidate screening by contacting references. Interviews will be scheduled with the finalists. Interviews will include: Selection Committee, Authority, Authority Director and the Science Program Director and staff. Candidates will be required to give a lunchtime public seminar. The Selection Committee will receive recommendations from all interviewing bodies and will make its final recommendation to the Authority Director and to the Authority for final approval and appointment of selected candidate.

Review Panel formation update:

1) Science Program activities relating to the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) Investigation: Science Program staff has identified and contacted scientists to participate in a technical review panel of the 2005 and proposed 2006 IEP POD activities. Expertise is being sought in fisheries population biology, primary productivity and trophic energy transfer, systems integration, hydrology, introduced species, contaminants, and biostatistics. Review panel members will review existing IEP program documents and data, consider emerging data and the status of Estuary pelagic organism populations, and provide input on proposed upcoming IEP POD-related research and monitoring activities. Review panel activities are scheduled to begin in October 2005 and to culminate in a report to the IEP Management Team on November 14, 2005. Panel recommendations will be used to refine IEP's 2006 POD workplan.

2) Science Program activities relating to the review of Operation Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Opinion: At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Science Program is organizing an independent review of the scientific information used to support the 2004 Biological Opinion for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's USBR) and Department of Water Resources' OCAP for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

The review will be lead by Science Program advisor, Dr. Randall Brown. We intend to select the panel and have it begin reviewing the Biological Opinion and supporting documents in early September. The panel will then convene in mid-October for a two-day public workshop during which with USBR and NMFS staff will describe the key scientific information underlying the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion – including modeling and underlying assumptions used to reach conclusions about project impacts. The review panel will release a draft report with review conclusions by mid-November. The draft report will be available for agency and public review for a limited period. Final report is expected by the end of the year.

3) Environmental Water Account: The Environmental Water Account (EWA) will be the focus of a public workshop in early December 2005 to review 2005 EWA water acquisitions and allocations. The public workshop will consist of a series of presentations on 2005 EWA activities by Federal and State agency scientists and engineers actively involved in the project. Stakeholders will be invited to present their views and ample time will be available for discussion and questions among the speakers and the audience. A portion of the agenda will be devoted to the agency/CALFED response to the 2004 EWA Review Panel report, in particular to those actions listed in the response that the agencies or CALFED plan to undertake as the EWA evolves.

Because little has changed since the 2004 panel report and 2005 EWA actions were relatively non-controversial, this review will be informal. To establish continuity with the former EWA review panel, four members of that panel are being invited to the December workshop to provide comments and advice for next year. There will be no formal review panel report this year; however, the invited experts may contribute individual comments during or after the workshop.

Update on Status of Independent Science Board's Organization and Structure

There are presently three boards in CALFED: Independent Science Board (ISB); Ecosystem Restoration Science Board (ERPSB); Water Management Science Board (WMSB). These boards were supported through a contract, now lapsed, with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Pending development of a new contract, the activities of all three boards have been suspended.

This hiatus provides an opportunity to examine the organization and structure of the CALFED science boards, which were developed by different procedures and for different purposes over the history of the CALFED Program and the Authority. The Lead Scientist recommends that Authority management and staff use this hiatus of the science boards as opportunity to review the boards' structure and organization, and thereby determine whether they might be improved to better meet the current needs of the CALFED Program and implementing agencies.

Potential outcomes of such a review may include: 1) maintaining status quo and proceeding with the new contracts in the next few months; 2) complete restructuring and proceeding with the new contracts; and 3) deferring the renewal of the boards' contracts until CALFED refocusing is complete. Authority and agency staffs will meet over the next few months and discuss potential new approaches to the science boards and then bring recommendations to the Authority.

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List of Attachments

Attachment 1 — Lead Scientist Search Committee

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**Lead Scientist Search Committee
June 2005**

Independent Science Board:

David Freyberg, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University
Peter Goodwin, Center for Ecohydraulics, University of Idaho, Boise
Jeffrey Mount, Department of Geology, University of California, Davis
Kenneth Rose, Coastal Fisheries Institute, Louisiana State University

U.S. Geological Survey:

Jan Thompson, National Research Program, U.S. Geological Survey,
Menlo Park
David Schoellhamer, California District U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources
Division

Other Agencies:

Diana Jacobs, California Department of Fish and Game
Dave Harlow, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Richard Soehren, California Department of Water Resources

Stakeholders:

Steve Johnson, The Nature Conservancy
Steve Macaulay, California Urban Water Users Association
Marci Coglianese, City of Rio Vista

California Bay-Delta Authority Staff:

Tim Ramirez, Ecosystem Restoration Program
Tom Gohring, Water Management

Organizational Team:

Johnnie N. Moore, Lead Scientist, California Bay-Delta Authority
Jeffrey Mount, University of California, Davis
Tim Ramirez, Deputy Director Environmental Restoration Program,
California Bay-Delta Authority
Michelle Shouse, Special Assistant to the Lead Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey
Jana Machula, Program Coordinator, California Bay-Delta Authority